

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SENATORS PERCY AND HUMPHREY INTRODUCE RESOLUTION
MARKING BIRTHDAY OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED
IN SENATE BY SENATORS PERCY AND HUMPHREY ON AUGUST 2:
BEGIN TEXT: S.CON. RES. 132. EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF
CONGRESS REGARDING UNITED STATES RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA ON
THE OCCASION OF THE BIRTHDAY OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA. WHERE-
AS AUGUST 3 MARKS THE BIRTHDAY OF HABIB BOURGUIBA, WHO HAS
SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF HIS COUNTRY SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN
1956 AND IS NOW IN HIS FOURTH CONSTITUTIONALLY ELECTED TERM
OF OFFICE: WHEREAS THE YEARS OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S
TENURE HAVE BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH
NEIGHBORING STATES AND BY A CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE UNITED STATES: WHEREAS, THE PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE
OF TUNISIA SHARE WITH THE UNITED STATES THE IDEALS AND
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GOALS OF PEACE AND UNDISTURBED ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN AN

ATMOSPHERE OF FREEDOM: WHEREAS TUNISIA UNDER PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAS ACHIEVED A COMMENDABLE MEASURE OF PEACEFUL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE EFFECTIVE COMBINED USE OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING), THAT IT IS THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT FOR THESE REASONS PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA SHOULD BE HONORED FOR HIS WISE AND COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP OF TUNISIA THROUGH NEARLY TWO DECADES. SEC. 2. IT IS THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT THE CONTINUATION OF TUNISIA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CIRCUMSTANCES OF PEACE, LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGNTY IS IMPORTANT FOR THE STABILITY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA AND FOR THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES. SEC. 3. IT IS THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF TUNISIA THROUGH THE PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. END TEXT.

2. SENATOR PERCY'S REMARKS ON INTRODUCING RESOLUTION FOLLOW: BEGIN TEXT: MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE OCCASION OF THE BIRTHDAY OF PRESIDENT HABIB BOURGUIBA OF TUNISIA, AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TUNISIA, I AM AT THIS TIME SUBMITTING A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING UNITED STATES RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA. I AM PLEASED TO SHARE THE SPONSORSHIP OF THIS RESOLUTION WITH THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA (MR. HUMPHREY). PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA IS WELL KNOWN TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS A RESPONSIBLE LEADER OF HIS COUNTRY WHICH HAS PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE INTERNATIONAL ROLE WHILE PURSUING A DOMESTIC POLICY OF PROGRESS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SPHERES. RECENTLY, ON A PRIVATE VISIT TO TUNISIA, I MET WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA AND WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH HIS DETERMINATION TO BUILD, IMPROVE, AND DEFEND HIS COUNTRY. I FIND OF SPECIAL INTEREST TWO FARSIGHTED POLICIES OF THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT. SINCE ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE IN 1956, THE COUNTRY HAS DEVOTED 35 PERCENT OF ITS NATIONAL BUDGET TO EDUCATION. AND THE FIRST LAW PASSED BY THE NEW TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT

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PROVIDED EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN. TUNISIA ALSO PURSUES ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH A VIEW TO THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF ITS CITIZENS. DURING THE FOURTH ECONOMIC PLAN PERIOD, 1973-76, AN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 6.2 PERCENT HAS BEEN ATTAINED, WITH PER CAPITA INCOME ACTUALLY DWUHLINR TN ASTOUNDING FEAT DEMONSTRATING THAT ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR THE COUNTRY IS BEING SHARED AT EVERY LEVEL. NOW, LOOKING TOWARD THE FIFTH ECONOMIC PLAN PERIOD, 1977-81, A GROWTH

RATE OF 7.5 PERCENT HAS BEEN TARGETED. AMONG PROJECTS FORESEEN FOR THE FIFTH PLAN PERIOD ARE THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANUFACTURING FACILITIES FOR PHOSPHATES AND NITROGEN FERTILIZERS, NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION, INCREASES IN IRON SMELTING AND METALLURGY, THE BUILDING OF CEMENT PLANTS, AND IMPROVEMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE, THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, AND EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH FACILITIES. THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT PROJECTS THAT THE FIFTH PLAN WILL REQUIRE 28.5 PERCENT FOREIGN FUNDING, AND I AM SURE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL WISH TO CONTRIBUTE APPROPRIATE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE, AS WE ALWAYS HAVE, RECOGNIZING THAT TUNISIAN STABILITY HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL TO PEACE IN NORTH AFRICA AND THAT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN TUNISIA ARE IMPORTANT INGREDIENTS OF TUNISIAN STABILITY. ON PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S BIRTHDAY, WE CONGRATULATE HIM ON THE PROGRESS ALREADY ACHIEVED IN HIS COUNTRY AND ASSURE HIM OF OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN TUNISIA'S DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THE HEALTHY STATE OF TUNISIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. END TEXT.

3. WE EXPECT THAT RESOLUTION WILL MEET NO OPPOSITION IN EITHER SENATE AND HOUSE, AND WE WILL ADVISE WHEN ACTION COMPLETE. KISSINGER

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